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Victoria Street Newz

March 2007

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Vol. 3 No. 10

looking globally, seeing locally

Trade and Investment Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA)

Written by Connie Fogal

TO ALL Members of Councils of Lower Mainland Municipalities and cc to media

Dear Councillors:

RE: Trade and Investment Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA) signed April 28, 2006 (coming into force April 2007) between the Premiers of Alberta and British Columbia, Gordon Campbell and Ralph Klein, and their Ministers of Economic Development (BC) and of International and Intergovernmental Relations (Alta).

I am the Leader of the Canadian Action Party, a registered political party of Canada. I write on behalf of the Lower Mainland Canadian Action Party members who at a meeting on January 13, 2007 decided to approach you on the issue of the TILMA agreement to ask you to register your opposition to the Trade and Investment Labour Mobility Agreement (TILMA).

We are aware that local chapters of the Council of Canadians will be approaching you and asking you to have your staff prepare a report for you on this agreement setting out the advantages and disadvantages, and to recommend a route for you to take on this matter.

We agree you need to inform yourselves, but we wish to impress upon you our position that British Columbia must withdraw from this agreement, the agreement must be terminated, and that the municipalities are the vehicles to lead this challenge.

This agreement was entered without Legislative oversight from either province, and without informed debate among the municipalities or, most importantly, the citizens. Such procedure is unacceptable since this agreement is of such far reaching impact as to make it impossible for you (or the provincial government) to make meaningful decisions to protect or promote the interest of all your constituents, and hence renders your existence and our electoral system irrelevant at the municipal as well as the provincial level.

TILMA is a super investment agreement of greater scope than the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in that it allows no government obstacles (Article 3) that would impair or restrict trade, or investment, or labour mobility between the Parties. In addition to the provinces, it covers municipalities, Crown corporations, school boards, universities, and private agencies on contract with government.

This means you will not be able to regulate on any matter as all regulations can be seen as in some way affecting investment leaving your municipality subject to the maximum penalty of \$5 million for each investor who chooses to sue you even on the same issue over and over again.

Such matters as your efforts to conserve heritage sites, promote small business or neighborhood development, or bans on municipal billboards, rules about density, scenic views, building height limitations, tree bylaws, or any issues re quality of neighborhood life will be impacted.

In essence, this agreement erases provincial borders as all standards and regulations are to be reconciled. The agreement is open for other provinces to join. Todd Hirsch of the Canada West Foundation on July

15, 2006 said, "Within TILMA are the seeds of a true economic union, an erasing of the provincial boundary for all purposes except voting and the color of the plates."

Your historical role of being the government most attuned and responsive to the electorate by virtue of your proximity to it was erased by the stroke of Premier Campbell's pen on April 28, 2006. Being creatures of the province, your authority and legitimacy was wiped out.

A delegation from our lower mainland party committee respectfully welcomes an opportunity to address you on this issue if you see fit to hear us.

Yours truly,

Constance (Connie) Fogal, Leader,
CANADIAN ACTION PARTY/ PARTI ACTION CANADIENNE
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for more information:

TILMA: Interprovincial Trade Deal Ties the Hands of Government, by Ellen Gould, Briarpatch Magazine, Dec 06- www.briarpatchmagazine.com.

Corporate Rights Deal to Make Us April Fools - TILMA will strip our ability to set local limits. By Murray Dobbin January 24, 2007 - TheTyee.ca.

On January 27th, tens of thousands of Americans, including Susan Sarandon and Tim Robbins, took to their streets to protest the ongoing invasion of Iraq and recent escalation of US troops in Iraq.
photo collage with thanks to Indymedia.org



About Street Newz

"Building Bridges
within our Downtown Community"

Coordinator & Website: Janine Bandcroft
Deliveries: Nancy Raycroft
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The Victoria Street Newz mission is to provide a voice, and income opportunities, for economically marginalized and/or socially disadvantaged people, at the same time offering employable skills training, increased self-esteem, confidence, and pride in accomplishments.

Victoria Street Newz is sold by licensed vendors who sign a code of conduct. They buy the newspaper for \$.50 each, and resell them by donation. We like to encourage a sliding-scale economy which offers people a choice.

You can contribute to social change by supporting the Victoria Street Newz coalition and vendors, by reading information that informs you directly about poverty issues, and by taking action for progressive, peaceful, non-violent change.

Victoria Street Newz welcomes written submissions including interviews, event reviews, cartoons, poetry, photographs, or artwork, but we can't guarantee everything will be published. We reserve the right to edit, and will not print anything libelous, racist, sexist, or homophobic. Letters sent to the editor are assumed to be for publication, must include phone number or email (if possible, for confirmation) and may be edited for length. You can publish using a pseudonym, or anonymously.

Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of Victoria Street Newz, the editors, advertisers, contributors, readers, or publishers.

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Janine's Jibe

Anna says Betty's a National Treasure. Anna is also a National Treasure. Her heartfelt beliefs follow. Betty's writings are on page two.

I also believe that allowing and encouraging the clearcut destruction of earth's last remaining ancient forests for profit and greed and excessive consumption is morally reprehensible



and just plain wrong. Attempting to protect the last remaining ancient temperate rainforest is an honourable & historic act. Betty's a real heroine.

We all, I feel, are obligated to change our lives in whatever peaceful manner we choose, to protect the right to life. I realize the science isn't all in on this, but after a few decades of living here it seems clear that continuous, never ending consumption of earth's resources, possibly risking our collective ability

to live on the planet, is just not the right thing to be encouraging at this point in our 'evolutionary' history.

So I'm not. And I'm gone, for a journey, to California. But I'll be back -- and maybe I'll tell you what I think of Arnold's greenifying after I see it for myself. And maybe I'll have an opportunity to hear what you think of who's to be believed about what, too. Green talk, or green action?

Jannit Rabinovitch's passing or transformation filled 2/3 of the Alix Goolden Chapel.

Jannit worked for equality, for women's safety and freedom, and I miss her too - even though I didn't know her much. A special thanks to Laurie for helping to keep the reality of her 'death' in perspective. And to the women who stayed with Jannit's body for the requisite 72 hours, & all her family & friends. I can imagine it's very difficult to fully feel the impact of Jannit's departure.

I'm just sorry I won't have a chance to get to know Jannit better.

Namaste, Janine.

Re: Betty Krawczyk

The Honourable Madam Justice Brown,
The Supreme Court of British Columbia,
800 Smithe St., Vancouver, BC V6Z 2E1

5 February 2007

Dear Madam,

Re: Betty Krawczyk

Betty Krawczyk should not be facing the court, awaiting sentence – Betty Krawczyk should be receiving official awards! It's a shame on our social and judicial system to treat as a criminal someone who is in reality a National Treasure.

It is thanks to people like her, dedicated Stewards of our Natural Heritage and selfless fighters for our Common Good, that Canada can boast having what has been declared a World Natural Heritage Site, the unique ecological reserve of Clayoquot Sound.

The folks who ultimately won it from destruction by the greedy axe, they too, were persecuted for the same "crime" as Betty – that of selflessly fighting to protect our precious Ancient Forests, which not only constitute our unique national heritage, but also the lungs of this nation and of the world at large.

George Watts' Potlatch

Submitted Anonymously

Dear Couz,

I am sorry to be so long in writing back to you. I have been wanting to tell you about our trip back to good ole' Port Alberni last fall. It was actually at the beginning of November.

I guess that you realize that George Watts died in May, 2005. He was only in his 50s. You know that I have always respected his point of view that we used to hear on the local radio/newspaper about Indian/White relations, especially in the area of the educational system. Of course, once I went to work for the Tribal Council, I realized that over the years George made a huge impact on both the federal and the provincial governments' attitude to indigenous people. Apart from all the negotiating that he did over finances with the feds for the Tribal Council, he was also involved in the patriation of the Canadian Constitution. He wanted to make sure that "existing aboriginal rights" would be included in the document. I remember that he was an integral part of organizing the first meeting of the world council of indigenous peoples in Port Alberni, too. In later years, right up until his sudden death, I understand that he did a lot of work for present treaty negotiations. Unfortunately, the natives typically don't publicize this kind of information, except for themselves--they just move on to another goal within reach.

Well, it's been many years since I worked for the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, but I really wanted to go up to his memorial potlatch. I was a bit uneasy about going: would I be allowed in? And would anyone remember me? Three days is a long time to sit alone, with only husband for company, feeling conspicuous!

Well, I bit the bullet and went up, remembering that someone said to me once: when you leave us, you'll never get an invitation to anything, but you'll always be welcome...

This potlatch turned out to be one classy 3 day gathering. Did I say that I worried about being turned away at the door? Remind me of native manners, please. We were welcomed! Part of the general welcome at the door was a gift of a beautiful pillow to sit on for the next three days. Not only were both of us remembered by so many, but they seemed genuinely happy to see us. It felt great! I saw and talked with lots of people from our school days. Couz, you should'a been there! I also saw many that I worked with in the past.

From the gift of the pillows on, it was one classy potlatch. Strict regulations were outlined at the start-no talking during performances, children to be seen and not heard, no walking around except between items on the program. They held to these regulations the whole time with a "security patrol" in effect. They also had an emcee to tell us what was happening.

I think that the most moving part of the whole 3 days occurred right at the start. It began with a solemn cleansing of the floor of the basketball arena. George's extended family members sang crying songs to signal the end of mourning. The sharp cries came from nowhere-the family was behind a barrier. It was eerie. Then Matilda, George's widow and their children gave gifts to those who came to help when George died. Even the members of the Nanaimo Emergency Response team were

Her cause is the cause of thousands of Canadians and millions of people around the globe. People who know the inestimable value of great ancient forests. Their deep spiritual value, and their value in the most basic utilitarian context – of their physical indispensability to healthy life on the planet!

What we lose by destroying the remnants of our Temperate Rain Forests can never be compensated by the measly immediate profits gained through short-sighted economic policies dictated by blind greed. In the end, fat wallets in the pockets of a few will not provide water and food for the masses when the Planet suffers drought and no longer can support life.

And it is they, the greedy short-sighted few that distortedly use the law of the land to serve their own selfish purposes and prosecute our society's Heroes and Defenders, just because they stand in the way of their profits.

I therefore beg you, Honourable Madam Justice, in the name of true justice, to declare Betty Krawczyk Not Guilty of any crime when standing up for the protection of our Old Growth Trees.

Thank you.

Respectfully, Anna M. Galon

honoured--for George died suddenly in a store in Nanaimo, you realize.

After I while, I began recognizing that we were probably witnessing a rebirth of the potlatch tradition at its finest. George comes from a strong family, of course. It's not just George, there are many others in his family who are educated, dedicated and highly respected people working quietly within many fields. The family had obviously been planning this potlatch for a whole year.

We were, of course, continually served with coffee and hearty snacks through the whole 3 days. There was no booze in sight, for it's been like that for 25 years at these celebrations. There were garbage control guys coming around continually so that you dispose of your garbage.

All the various tribes who form the Tribal Council area performed for the family. They gave speeches and sang and danced for the family. They also gave gifts--some of them, huge--to the Watts family.

The highlight of the gifts seemed to come from the Hyy-ay-aht Tribe (Bamfield area) who presented the family with an enormous totem pole. At 11:30 p.m. on Saturday night! The pole appeared to be around 15 feet long. I wondered how they were going to get that out of the hall, as it took many guys to bring it in on log rollers. It was gone by Sunday morning when we arrived for the final day.

Another amazing thing was to watch was the action before they fed us on Saturday night. The floor of the Athletic Hall was cleared of seats, tables hauled into place, tablecloths put down and seats re-positioned, all within about 15 minutes of breaking for the supper hour. Then multi servers descended on the crowd, bringing plates of hot food to hundreds of people. It was an incredible act of organization to witness. They were also feeding those in the grandstands around the basketball court. It seemed to take about the same length of time to be served as it does to be served a meal in a restaurant. And the food was good, even though it had to be brought from the big hall at Tseshahat a couple of miles away. How they can serve hot, moist fish for that many people is beyond me. I have seen this kind of thing before at native gatherings, but never for this many people.

We caved in from tiredness, leaving the hall early all 3 nights. I understand that the final night went on until 3 a.m.

I realize that I sound as if I'm not "for real," but I assure you, I tell it like it is. I feel sorry for all the guys who live down here and don't get a chance to feel proud of what their people back home on the reserves can accomplish. I am honoured to have been able to have been part of that gathering. And it's a healing thing. I came away with the feeling that George's good work will be repeated by others today and by the next generation tomorrow, for he influenced many.

I wished that you could've come, Couz! See ya when you're next in town.

Homelessness: Let's Govern Ourselves Accordingly -- Part Two

Submitted by Brian Mason

Last month, I argued that poverty, like unemployment, has a natural level in the capitalist system below which it cannot fall without damaging the economic system itself. In the case of unemployment, a level approaching zero would theoretically accelerate the rate of inflation; whereas levels of poverty and homelessness approaching zero would require taxation rates coupled with wealth-redistribution policies that would drag down the rate of economic growth. I concluded that unless government intervenes, or until the people revolt, nothing will change the social order. Meanwhile, we all accept, tacitly or otherwise, the status quo of a certain level of poverty and homelessness in our midst.

Changing a social order, however, is an inherently risky – not to mention, complex – undertaking. The many vested interests reaping wealth in the current system can be expected to fight back viciously. That people might willingly choose to revolt against global capitalism, an inherently ruthless, unjust and inequitable system, cannot be taken for granted.

And yet, ending homelessness is more a moral issue than an economic one. Homeless people, as does everyone, minimally need three things: a guaranteed basic income, an array of comfortable accommodation choices and decent health care. Capitalism, even in a liberal democracy, lacks the values and mechanisms necessary to make this happen.

The occasional apparent goodwill of corporations is laughable. Business can never represent our political and social values. Businesses exist for one reason – to make a profit – and, in this regard, almost anything goes. Spasmodic, usually fashionable efforts by business to deal with social problems, while they might lead to the odd new product or business venture intended to help the homeless, take place in a social policy vacuum. These efforts, like those of private philanthropic organizations (funded by obscenely high levels of profit sucked up by a tiny elite), can only ever hope to address a few symptoms of poverty; they can never strike at its causes. We have government to deal with social issues. In fact, it's why we have government in the first place.

Unfortunately, government has largely abdicated its responsibility to set social policy, to properly govern and lead. At every level, it has been intimidated by private business, and, in Stephen Harper's Conservatives, we have at the federal level a governing party wedded to the ideology of turning over almost every public domain to the private sector. The BC Liberals are neck and neck in this race to privatise just about everything vital to our way of life.

Governments often blame globalisation for their inability to act, afraid that any move to help their own people will run afoul of a free trade agreement or send corporations scurrying to find

cheaper locations to operate in. Governments aren't weak; nowadays, they just act that way, looking alternately scared and bought off by corporations. They have all the powers necessary to create a more equitable society. Since when did we elect corporations, lobbyists or private foundations to govern us? John Ralston Saul is one intellectual encouraging young people not to avoid politics for its seeming irrelevancy, but to run for office as the best way to legitimately change the system. I think he's right.

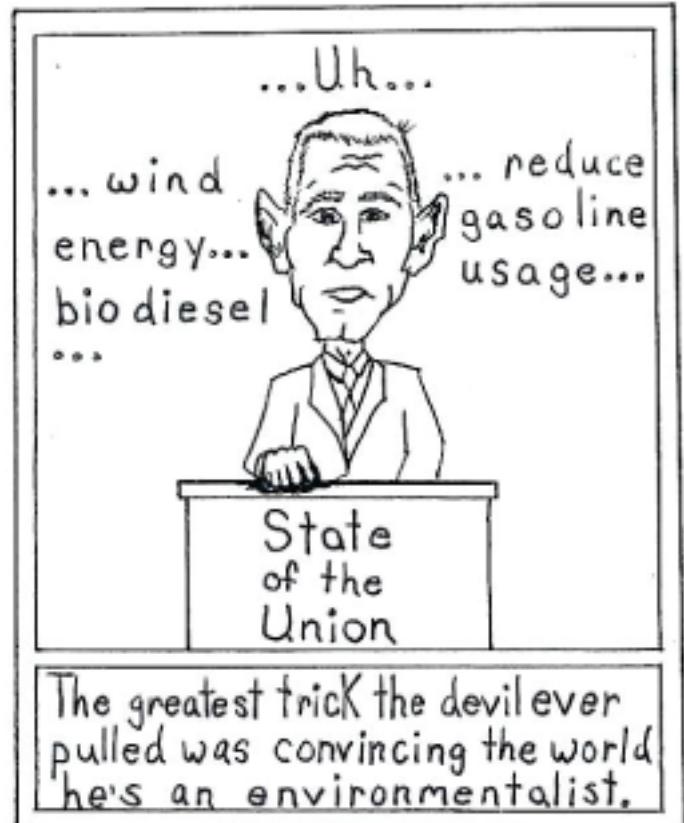
However, our society is purposefully complex, extremely so, and governing it has become a process of ever declining marginal returns relative to the efforts we expend. So argues Joseph Tainter, in *The Collapse of Complex Societies*, who sees us as having to expend ever greater resources to confront new stresses and unanticipated challenges without making much headway. This doesn't auger well for our current system to tackle poverty and homelessness.

Worse yet, both our social justice and environmental movements have, in our spiritless times, lost their will. The battle to save Clayoquot was a long time ago now, part of an earlier generation and another century; its memory is fading. A new focus of coalescence is needed, new strategies and new tactics. A tent city for the homeless, for instance, has been set up along a canal in Paris, intended to ignite the will of the people to demand and bring about change. Rich and poor alike are invited to live in one of the tents which will remain in place until definitive action is taken by government. It's a small step in the right direction.

We desperately need a revolution in social and economic thinking and a revaluation of our democracy. Only then can we begin the struggle to end poverty and homelessness, not to mention environmental destruction. Try to envision, for example, an economy not based on the premise of constant growth and exploitation of Earth and people. Capitalism needs to be tamed, slowed down and managed both at the national and global levels. And, democracy needs to get back to its roots.

Would a revitalised democracy – one beyond big-party politics and polls, more direct, more responsive – provide all the answers? Of course not, but it would have legitimacy, accountability, and (relatively) transparent processes on its side. It is where our social values could get put into a policy framework. Nothing like this can be said about capitalism and corporations, nor will it ever be the case. In fact, they have ruined democracy, turning it into a battleground for well-funded lobbyists. Let's re-democratise our democracy; let's reclaim its full and true spirit. As liberal political theorist John Rawls put it, society should order its affairs so as to maximise the welfare of the person who is going to be worst off.

Brian Mason, a writer, philosopher and activist living in James Bay.



cartoon by J.R. Smith

Thanks, Victoria Street Newz !!

by cyann ray

As most of our readers know, Victoria Street Newz won a 2006 Quality Of Life Challenge Award. I can now say that I write for an award winning paper. Wow! Talk about an ego-boost!

I had to leave the work force in '98 when my health became an issue. Initially I was relieved that I no longer had to "sell" my compromised physical capacity for a wage (a minimum one at that) in order to survive. As an artist and hobby photographer I was looking forward to spending more time on my craft. Over the last few years I've developed my art and have even managed to sell some. (Sacred Herb and the Vancouver Island Compassion Society carry my cards). But the enthusiasm I once had over having my days to myself has steadily faded into a greyness of boredom and guilt. Plummeting into new depths of poverty certainly fueled my growing discontent and frustration with what my life had become.

Enter Janine and the Victoria Street Newz. I've been writing since I learned how. Starting in the sixties with wee bios entitled "All About Me" (clearly reflecting the flagrant narcissism so prevalent in children) written on "G.O.S." paper my Dad would bring home from the office (good one side), and graduating into heated letters to the editor of just about every paper in town, writing has always been an important vent and form of expression for me. When Janine and I met at the Open Door during the summer of '04, it was without hesitation that I agreed to write for her new paper.

"A Simple Observation" was my first piece and, despite its brevity, remains one of my favorites. Clear, concise and bang on topic. Too often I feel I'm drifting away from those core issues effecting the poor. When I read the other articles in Street Newz I sometimes feel guilty that my words are even getting published. I know I shouldn't feel this way. I am writing opinion editorials not meaty researched pieces. Apples and oranges. There is no comparison. And Janine has never questioned my subject matter. Still... I've often felt out of my league.

Recently though, I had an epiphany. I re-read the paper's mission statement (p.1) and realized that my participation with Victoria Street Newz is as bang on as my first submission was. I am an "economically marginalized, socially disadvantaged person" who has been given "income opportunities, skills training and increased self-esteem, confidence and pride in my accomplishments" all thanks to Victoria Street Newz. I have met some interesting folks plus broadened my perspective on such issues as addiction, homelessness, capitalism and the history of poverty. I've also discovered that there are lots of like-minded individuals out there enlightening the masses and trying to change things for the better. How encouraging!

Gone is the greyness of boredom and the frustration of poverty. Oh I'm still poor, but no longer living cheque to cheque which is a tremendous improvement. Most significantly I no longer feel so discontent with my life. On the contrary, this writing experience has spurred me towards fulfilling a life-long desire: to write a book. I am going to write a book. A photo-driven memoir for my daughter. I finally feel capable of organizing my history and my thoughts and it's been due to my involvement with this paper. Victoria Street Newz IS achieving what it has set out to do. Bravo! No wonder it (WE!) won an award!

Attention: Prospective Writers Writing Support is available!!

James Rowe, a grad student in political science from the University of California, Santa Cruz, will be available every Thursday from 1-2:30 pm at Our Place to converse about the writing process with any interested Street Newz or other writers. He will happily edit pieces, or simply shoot the breeze about the joys and frustrations of writing our world. Any conversations writers would like to have, he would love to be party to. Writing is usually for an audience, and yet the process can be isolating and alienating. This time/space is intended to bring some sociability and support to the writing process.

Squamish Elder Harriet Nahane in Jail

By Betty Krawczyk

Vancouver, Wednesday January 24, 2007

This morning, shortly after 10AM, Madam Justice Brown sentenced Squamish elder Harriet Nahane to fourteen days in jail for asserting her rights under the Constitution as an Indian and refusing to apologize to anybody, including the court, for blockading at Eagleridge Bluffs. Betty Krawczyk, who had been acting in the courtroom as a McKenzie Friend of the court on Harriet's behalf, knowing full well the horrors of Surrey Pre-Trial where Harriet will most likely be kept, objected strenuously at the sentencing. Betty was forcibly ejected from the court room and refused re-entry.

February 06 2007

Well, the Hell's Angels and Robert Pickton will actually get fair trials. They will have the protection of the Criminal Code of Canada. But I have never had a fair trial because the Attorney General and the courts keeps putting me into a special category called contempt of court.

In the contempt of court category there is no right to a jury trial, no right to argue the court ruling I was arrested under, and no right to bring character witnesses.

For more information:

betteyearleyedition.blogspot.com
www.booksbybetteyk.com



editor's note: On Feb 8th, Betty was found guilty on 3 counts of criminal contempt of court. Her sentencing is at 2 pm, Feb. 19,07 - at which time the March Street Newz will already be printed.

photo thanks to Monika Sheardown: Betty and supporters, including Adrienne Carr, former provincial Green Party leader, and Paul George, WCWC founder.

Personal Profile: I've Not Seen Heaven, Though I've Had a Clear View Of Hell

Submitted by Rob Mason

Through correspondence with Janine I have been given the opportunity to share my story with the readers of Street Newz. It is both a privilege and a pleasure to be included in a publication that has come about in order to fill a need as both an alternative to the corporate media as it raises awareness of, and makes visible, those who are directly affected by poverty and homelessness in our city.

Having said that I must admit that laying bare the details of my life is not done in the absence of fear. I feel I must say as I commence that I am not presenting myself as an authority on anything and though my life (at least at this time) doesn't involve living on the street I do not see myself (nor do I wish to be seen) as being any better/worse than anyone who currently finds themselves in these circumstances.

Mine is a story with little fanfare, not particularly exciting and by the standards of many riddled more than not with failure (although I suppose that I continue to suck air as I write this I continue to succeed at something).

If you'll indulge me I'll give you a snapshot of my life currently and then backtrack from there. I am 47 years old, a lifetime resident of Victoria, I am by profession a Licensed Practical Nurse working part-time as a home support worker and I intend to work professionally as a personal trainer. I am married and on condition of a regular mortgage payment the bank allows my name (and the rest of me) to reside & hold title on a townhouse in View Royal. If all remains equal Mar. 12 of this year I will be clean & sober for twenty years.

In case you hadn't guessed it is my intention to further develop this piece to focus on the period of my life leading up to, during and heading into sobriety. Once again this is not to suggest that I am in any way superhuman or anything of that nature (after all there are Hollywood celebrities getting drunk and cleaning up all the time), quite the contrary I am just a regular guy who hopes that the folly that has been the theme of much of my life can in some way reach and thereby serve as hope and inspiration to someone else.

To begin, I was adopted as a baby (born here at St. Joseph's Hospital – Aug. 28, 1959) I had one other sibling (a sister 11/2 yrs. my junior – adopted as well). We lacked for nothing; we were brought up in a loving home and if anything were probably over-indulged. I knew of my adoption and didn't think much about it until I got to school. We were sent to a Catholic elementary school (although we were brought up in the Anglican Church). Though nobody made a point of my being "different" – being pretty much the only Anglican kid in the school and as far as I knew the only adopted kid began for me a mindset of never really "fitting in." This went on to dog me well into my adult life. I was not very outgoing and may have been oversensitive, the teasing that goes on between kids as much as I tried I could not ignore it and took it to heart. I became more and more withdrawn as I attempted to just "blend in" to my environment.

As a young teenager I discovered alcohol, the first time being a curiosity satisfying experience (and perhaps the ground work for my being willing to steal to satisfy my thirst) compliments of my parents' liquor cabinet. Just a few mouthfuls but oh what a feeling, it didn't taste particularly good, however I felt like an entirely different person – little did I know that the pursuit of this feeling would go on to become an obsession that would occupy most of my waking moments. For the time being (I was 13) these experiences were few and far between (my parents didn't drink much therefore what was in the house rarely if ever turned over and I wasn't particularly resourceful though that soon would change).

The next big drunk was at a friend's place up the street, his parents had gone out for the night they had a very well stocked bar and they were willing to feed me as much as I could humanly consume. The night went rapidly from that wonderful feeling to stumbling,



I look back over my abusive use over these years and have to say it is nothing short of miraculous that I survived ... I thank God that some of the drugs that kids are messing with today weren't available then or chances are I would have tried them.

maybe the disgusting state they were left in became the motivating factor prompting these individuals to seek greener pastures.

By the age of 16 we were becoming more brazen, we began frequenting some of the local beer parlours (for a couple of reasons they shall remain nameless – one many no longer exist and two our access was made possible by their inclination to be lax on asking for I.D. or looking the other way at some of our rather dubious fakes). No use taking anyone else down with my story.

It was around this time that I was introduced to smoking pot. I can't claim any authority on the so-called gateway drugs all I know was that my path took me through the initial experimentation and then use and abuse of a myriad of different drugs both legal and illegal. I frequently skipped school to get loaded, frequently went to school loaded. Long term friends fell by the wayside as I chose to associate with those who "partied" like I did. When I worked my money went to feed my habits, when I didn't have money I stole from my family, pawned my belongings, hustled pool for drinks, and became the "go-to-guy" for those around school that wanted liquor – all before I was even old enough to graduate or drink legally for that matter.

I look back over my abusive use over these years and have to say it is nothing short of miraculous that I survived. I got to the point where I was consuming anything and everything in what may well have been lethal combinations – it certainly wasn't through any knowledge of chemistry or ability to know when to stop that I didn't become a statistic. I thank God that some of the drugs that kids are messing with today weren't available then or chances are I would have tried them.

By the age of 18 I was starting to consider that there might be a problem (remember I did say reasonable wasn't one of my strong suits). I registered for an abstinence program through one of the government outpatient clinics. You were meant to attend for 12 consecutive weeks and, well, they don't emphasize the denial aspect of addiction for nothing. After 3 sessions I was thoroughly convinced that everyone else in the room needed to be there, however not me!

This began another ten years of drinking (for the most part I stayed away from drugs – at least this was my story – hell, I even quit smoking – I was a regular paragon of health. Of course if at a party and loaded enough and drugs were made available – need I say more. Over these ten years I had a sporadic work history, problems

babbling drunkenness to (the remainder of this story was recounted to me through eyewitness accounts) this was to be my first blackout and can't confirm nor deny to this very day the rest.

Apparently I was chasing their dog, it went out the door with me in not-so-hot pursuit. The dog turned left down the stairs and I, on the other hand, took the quick way down straight over the banister and dropped 8-10 feet landing flat on my back on the front lawn. I guess I laid there likely winded/nauseated, my friends were unsure whether I was dead or alive. Much to their relief, or probably more accurately my stomach, I began throwing up. My parents were called to come and get me and the next thing I remember was waking up in their bed with them looking down at me first with the look of utter dread soon followed by anger. I on the other hand was feeling not too bad overall and was keen to get something to eat.

One would think that the getting sick, or the humiliation, would have most reasonable people thinking twice before trying a stunt like that again – well that's where I got off the ride – I couldn't seem to get enough. We were 15 now and it became the weekly ritual to stand in front of the (then) Nootka Court liquor store until we could convince someone to purchase the booze for us. We would then take our ill-gotten bottles into the theatre, buy a large pop and proceed to get plastered. At this time I probably should make amends to anyone employed at the theatre during the early 70s particularly those responsible for cleaning the bathrooms, then again

with employers when I did work – believe it or not I was actually working in healthcare by now and some days you would have been not far wrong to declare the caregiver sicker than the patient. Another complication was the department manager insisting (not surprising I suppose) on regular attendance and though technically sick, my excessive use of sick time apparently became problematic not to mention increasingly more difficult to explain. Frankly, I could not keep up with my own incessant lying.

Before long a series of events led to my seeking help, which was initiated through this aforementioned manager and I began on the road to recovery.

Now I'll grant you that conspicuous through absence there is no mention throughout my ramblings of suffering any horrendous abuses, no great tragedies; as such I don't for a minute wish to diminish the validity nor impact these and other unimaginable events can do have on those who continue to suffer.

I suppose in an attempt to qualify where I am coming from I will say that by the time I sought help (I was then 28 yrs. old) I had 2 impaired driving convictions, (and this doesn't even begin to reflect the amount of times that I drove a car while impaired), I had experienced a night in the "drunk-tank," spent time in the detox-center (albeit once overnight – only to discharge myself the next afternoon, & the 2nd time only long enough to be told there was nothing anyone could do if I wasn't willing to help myself), I had lost cars, innumerable broken relationships, thousands of dollars in debts, and quite honestly didn't care if I lived or died. Truth be known I would have preferred the latter but lacked the guts to do anything about it, though it has been pointed out to me that I drank and used with such reckless abandon that I was essentially committing suicide on the installment plan – it was simply a matter of time.

Ironically the very means I believed in my youth was able to transform me into so much more than what I believed I could be, insidiously robbed me of my identity entirely and played a part in my becoming someone capable of behaviour & deeds I never dreamed that I would participate in. This perpetuated a state of shame, remorse, resentment, and the utter feeling of isolation followed by an unquenchable yearning to just not have to feel anything. I was completely mentally, emotionally, and spiritually bankrupted (amazingly, despite the long-term abuse, the physical rebounded relatively quickly).

There are countless people who have played a part in my recovery, I could not have done this alone, in fact I now know that I never need be alone again and that there is help available to those who seek it, the key for me was (& continues to be) I need to be willing to ask.

In conclusion I would like to add that I am in no way making excuses for, nor looking for sympathy with regard to my past. I know I had a part in all of it, the beautiful thing about the process of recovery is that I acknowledge my past (thoughts, actions, deeds) but I no longer feel the crushing guilt and remorse. I cannot take away nor no longer deny who I was during that period of my life, it is however my sincere desire that those who feel their life is hopeless will be inspired by this story and thereby find the strength within them to carry on and get the help they need.

Everyone needs a helping hand at sometime or another. It was there for me when I needed it and I now endeavour to be that spark of hope for someone else. The continuing process has allowed me some 20 years of living a life that I never dreamed possible.

Am I perfect? Only in my mind! – If I try to cut across the inner harbour rather than take the walkway around good chance I'll get wet! I am nowhere near finished, I am still discovering, still seeking guidance and still striving to become fully the great human being that I believe we were all meant to become. As long as I am still breathing (and a sober breath at that) then there is hope. This is true for anyone.

Rob Mason is a local health & fitness professional. When not working, he can be found rummaging through used bookstores in search of wisdom old & new (specifically personal/spiritual growth reading). Other "escapes" include hiking/biking/running for which the parks/trails around Greater Victoria provide an endless playground. Rob's email is guitfiddler@shaw.ca.

The History of Medicine

"I have an earache..."

2000 BC: "Here, eat this root."

AD 1000: "That root is heathen. Here, say this prayer."

AD 1850: "That prayer is superstition. Here, drink this potion."

AD 1940: "That potion is snake oil. Here, swallow this pill."

AD 1985: "That pill is ineffective. Here, take this antibiotic."

AD 2000: "That antibiotic is unnatural. Here, eat this root."

(thanks to Jo-Anne Layton for forwarding this!)

NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT BEGINS AT HOME
ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS--RESIST TRIDENT
Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action www.gzcenter.org

What are warrior societies? part II

By Taiaiake Alfred (photo) and Lana Lowe

OKA AND AFTERMATH

By the end of the 1980s, the Mohawk Warrior Society had been embroiled in several armed conflicts with Canadian and United States authorities as a result of police invasion and raiding of reserve cigarette stores, casinos and bingo halls. And in 1988, the Mi'kmaq Warrior Society emerged out of the community of Big Cove, New Brunswick.



Meanwhile, AIM's influence had all but disintegrated. The nature of the organization as a transient, urban-cultured movement had prevented any lasting connection to indigenous communities, and it failed to gain widespread support from indigenous people. AIM members were subsequently harassed, arrested and incarcerated by United States and Canadian authorities. First Nation politicians and leaders of established political organizations publicly denounced the confrontational approach taken by the organization, hoping to curry favour with Canadian governments in order to gain access to negotiating processes. AIM was nowhere to be found during the mid-1980s, when several indigenous communities in the interior and northern part of British Columbia took direct action to defend their territories from ongoing unsanctioned and rapacious resource extraction.

In 1990, the Mohawk Warrior Society faced off with the Quebec Provincial Police and the Canadian Army to prevent the expansion of a municipal golf course in Kanesatake, another Kanien'kehaka territory. Images of armed, masked men dressed in army fatigues, defending their land and the people from the full force of the Canadian state, shook mainstream Canada and galvanized indigenous people from coast to coast. By the mid 1990s, warrior societies had emerged throughout Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Manitoba.

Many of the people who became involved in the warrior society movements on the east and west coasts have cited the 1990 Oka crisis as a turning point in their lives, and the watershed event of this generation's political life. Indeed, the Mohawk Warrior Society's actions in 1990 around Kanesatake, Kahnawake and Akwesasne have provided crucial inspiration and motivation for the militant assertion of indigenous nationhood.

Young indigenous people in communities across the land saw that it was indeed possible to defend oneself and one's community against state violence deployed by governments in support of a corporate agenda and racist local governments. Perhaps more importantly, young indigenous people recognized the honour in what the Mohawks had done in standing up to what eventually were proven to be unjust and illegal actions on the part of the local non-indigenous government. The Oka crisis led to an awakening and radicalization of indigenous consciousness, as well as a broadening of the spectrum of possible responses to injustice.

The Mi'kmaq Warrior Society had developed and maintained a presence in several Atlantic communities, including Big Cove, Listiguj and Esgenoopetitj. In 1994, the Mi'kmaq Warrior Society made headlines when they seized land once occupied by a residential school and demanded the land be returned to the Mi'kmaq people. A year later, the Mi'kmaq Warrior Society was called in to protect the community of Eel Ground as they conducted their traditional salmon fishery in the Miramichi River in defiance of Canadian regulations.

In 1995 in Vancouver, second-generation AIM activists established the Native Youth Movement (NYM), an urbanbased youth organization grounded in Red Power traditions, philosophies and tactics. They too, wore camouflage and masks and carried the Mohawk warrior flag. For three years, NYM engaged in sit-ins, rallies and marches throughout British Columbia to protest the province's so-called Treaty Process.

In 1997, the Okijida Warrior Society formed in Manitoba as an alternative to urban youth gangs. The Okijida Warrior Society soon affiliated with AIM and worked to raise awareness about indigenous peoples' relationship with the Canadian government and encourage people to pressure Canada and the United States to treat indigenous people fairly. Since 2002, the Okijida Warrior Society has helped the Grassy Narrows community in Ontario maintain a blockade preventing logging trucks from entering their territory. The Grassy Narrows blockade continues to this day, and is actively supported by the people in the community. It is a highly visible and accessible site, both physically and psychologically, and indications from people involved are that the blockade has served a galvanizing purpose. It is enabling indigenous youth to learn from elders about the importance of land, spirituality, and the sustained connections to their heritage. Though situated within a conflict between the community and outside interests, the blockade has established a fundamentally positive and motivating environment for those involved at the community level.

In April, Part III -- Defending Indigenous Territories and Communities

Taiaiake Alfred [www.taiaiake.com] is Kanien'kehaka and a professor in the Indigenous Governance Programs at the University of Victoria. Lana Lowe is a member of the Fort Nelson Dene First Nation and works with indigenous peoples in Central America. This article is a condensed version of a background paper by the authors entitled "Warrior Societies in Indigenous Communities," prepared for the Ipperwash Inquiry and available on the commission's website and in its archive. This article was originally published at, and reprinted from newsocialist.org with Taiaiake's permission.

Approximately 2,500 Canadians are currently stationed in Afghanistan. Since 2002, 44 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed there. In early February students and activists from 'Canada Out of Afghanistan' held a 'die-in' outside Victoria's military recruitment centre on Fort St. Die-ins are a form of street theatre, a peaceful and non-violent attempt to educate & inform.

"We are here today to remember all the deaths that this conflict has caused so far ... We are calling for the immediate end of the Canadian combat mission in Afghanistan ... We are here to day to ask you to ask -- is what Canada is doing peacebuilding?"

A representative from 'Billionaires for Harper' was also at the scene looking for supporters.



Musings on the N.A.T.O. Police Action in Afghanistan This week -- The Soviet Invasion

Submitted by Don Startin

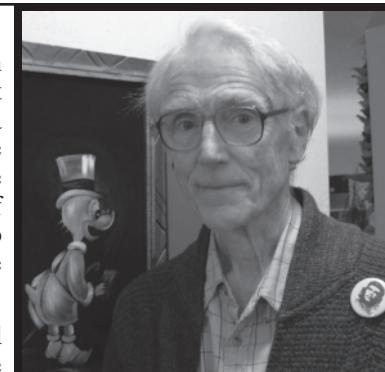
With all the interest in Afghanistan I have observed that the public library generally has a few books on the subject on the shelves that browsers can peruse to broaden their knowledge of the subject without having to take out a book. 958.1045 is the number to look for.

The most informative and gripping book that I have come across so far is *A Bed of Red Flowers*, by Pazira Nelofer, which covers the period 1978 to 2004 in detail, and is a history of the Nelofer family from 1938 to 2004. *Unholy Wars*, by John K. Cooley, tells how America's policy of indirect war making has encouraged the spread of radical Islam. The next two books are always out of the library, so the best place to browse in them is in Chapters or Munro's, but don't be seen taking notes in Chapters! The beadle will be after you.

At present the definitive work on the Middle East is *The Great War for Civilization: The Conquest of the Middle East* by Robert Fisk. This book describes in graphic detail the various blood lettings in that area from the Armenian Genocide of 1915 to the present indiscriminate slaughter of combatants and non-combatants alike in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also traces the palsied hand of British, Russian and American imperialism in all these grisly annals.

Back to the A! As noted last month, between 1911 and 1965 there was a liberalization of Afghanistan's social and political life which culminated in the recognition of political parties in 1966. Unfortunately the King did not pass this act of parliament into law, and there was considerable unrest in the country until 1972 when a politician called Daoud Khan led a military coup which declared Afghanistan a republic.

Daoud Khan was declared president, and began ruling with the support of the Peoples' Democratic Party of Afghanistan (P.D.S.A.) pro Moscow wing. Daoud's presidency was by no means tranquil. In 1978 another P.D.S.A. coup assassinated Daoud and his family and established an outright Communist [sic] government. Several groups within the party jockeyed for influence, and government, and the government had a reputation for inefficiency. A treaty of friendship and cooperation was signed with the U.S.S.R. in the same year. It was this treaty that the Russians invoked to justify their invasion when small scale armed resistance broke out in the eastern provinces.



In December 1979 the Red Army rolled into Afghanistan 'horse, foot, and guns.' The 105th Airborne Division occupied Kabul Airport, the 66th Motorised Rifle Brigade set up shop in Herat, the 357th Motorised Division occupied Kandahar, the 16th Motorised Division took on the three northern provinces, the 306th Motorised Infantry Division joined the paratroopers in Kabul. Add to this force a vast administrative tail, 60,000 military and airforce personnel, together with a legion of trucks and cargo aircraft.

It might just have succeeded if the C.I.A. hadn't begun supporting the resistance fighters with money and arms, especially hand held anti-aircraft rocket dischargers and rockets for shooting down helicopters gun ships.

Also at this time various Moslem clerics declared "jihad," or holy war. Unemployed Mujahideen from all over the Islamic world converged on Afghanistan to fight the infidels. One group of these, under Osama Bin Laden, was bankrolled from Saudi Arabia. Also "combat teams" coalesced around local strongmen, or warlords. The fighting and political uncertainty naturally engendered a massive exodus of refugees to Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.

The official Afghan army was fighting with the Red Army, and later fought on alone when the Russians pulled out. Large numbers of soldiers deserted to the Mujahideen with their weapons, others took off for Pakistan. To shore up the army, conscription was introduced. Young men of military age went underground or headed for Pakistan. Ill trained conscript infantrymen were sent to fight the Mujahideen and suffered high casualties.

From 1979 till 1989 the Red Army struggled on. It lost, 14,263 combatants dead or missing and 49,985 wounded. In 1989 it withdrew leaving a shaky communist [sic] regime besieged in Kabul by the Northern Alliance where they were finally defeated in 1992. The Red Cross estimates that there were 70,000 combatant and non-combatant Afghan casualties between 1979 and 1994.

In April we will examine the first disintegration of the Northern Alliance, and the rise of the Taliban.

Don Startin is an activist and gardener, an ex-military man who has done many different things since leaving the army. Don currently lives a life of simplicity with his wife in Victoria B.C.

Left Coast Happenings

Street Newz offers no guarantee that this info is accurate, or that the events will actually occur. Full events list published weekly at relativewnewz.ca.

Mondays	Movie Monday - 6:30 pm, Eric Martin Pavilion (1900 block Fort St. by donation 595-FLIC or www.islandnet.com/mm
Alt Mondays	Victoria Peace Coalition - 7:30 pm, dolcla@islandnet.com
Tuesdays	Voice of Palestine - 8-9 pm (PST) on 102.7FM. Listen live at http://www.coopradio.org/listen , archives in Audio Clips.
Tuesdays	Vic Bluegrass Assoc Jams 1620 Fernwood, Orange Hall, 7:30 pm 472-6483 free for listeners, \$2 for players - all levels
Tuesdays	Students Against War Club Meetings - UVic. 2:30, SUB basement rm B028. Info: sawuvic@yahoo.ca
Tuesdays	Hand Drumming Drop-in, \$10. Beg: 7-8 pm, Adv: 8:15-9:15 pm 521 Superior Info 386-1054 Drums provided.
2nd Tuesdays	Green Drinks - Queen Mother Waterside Cafe, 407 Swift St 5-7 pm. Info: www.qmwaterside.ca or www.greendrinks.org
Wednesdays	Vic West Farmers' Market - 3-7 indoors @Vic West Y, 521 Craigflower
Wednesdays	Falun Gong faluninfo.net . Fernwood Community Centre, 1240 Gladstone 5-7 p.m. Info: (250)995-1494 free
Wednesdays	Peace Vigils @ the Legislature , noon - 1 pm - Peace Ambassadors greet int'l visitors! Imagine: War Never Again 477-1944
Wednesdays	Recreational Drum Circle - 7pm, Dwntwn Community Act Ctr, 755 Pandora Free, Drums provided, all levels. 383-0076
Wednesdays	SOLID (Society of Living Intravenous Drugusers) except welfare day, 7-9 pm, 1947 Cook St. \$3 bus fare reimbursed
Wednesdays	Integrative Health Forum: INFORM yourself about health, 7-8pm, Free, 229, 560 Johnson-Market Square www.pacificrimcollege.ca
Wednesdays	Victoria Committee to End All Homelessness 7-9 pm, Dreamspace - 751 Discovery St. victoria@communitysolidarity.org
2nd Thursdays	South Island Health Coalition meetings 2 pm, BCGEU Building, 2994 Douglas St., 381-0033
Fridays	Parents of Apprehended Children support group , 1-3 pm, Blanshard Community Ctr 384-6554 # 126, colleenmasur@hotmail.com
Fridays	Coffeehouse discussion group 7:30 pm JJ's coffeehouse in Brentwood Bay 7:30 pm Info: sue_stroud@hotmail.com
Fourth Fridays	Café Simpatico, Activist coffeehouse , 1923 Fernwood. Doors at 7 pm. casc@telus.net , 598-7690, communitypipe.org
Last Fridays	Propel Yourself! Victoria Critical Mass Bike Rides - Centennial Square, 5 pm. bring bike, board, helmet, lights, bliss.
Sat Mornings	Sikh meditation -all welcome 6-7 am, Gurdwara Singh Sabha Society (470 Cecilia Rd) Info: jindi@hotmail.com
Saturdays	Neighbourhood Plastic Recycling - soft & hard plastics, and styrofoam 382-4604, www.pacificmobiledepots.com
Saturdays	Tour Merve Wilkinson's Wildwood Forest , Ladysmith Info: Jay, 250-245-5540, www.ecoforestry.ca/WildwoodMap.htm
4th Saturdays	Soft Plastic Recycling -Carnarvon Pk,Oak Bay,930-1230 pm,370-7736,oakgreen@telus.net, www.pacificmobiledepots.com
Sat & Sun	Falun Gong faluninfo.net 10-noon, Beacon Hill Pk, across from petting zoo, all winter. 250-995-1494 free
Alt. Sundays	Sierra Club Nature Outings - Call Nikko for more details at 386-5255 x241, www.sierraclub.ca/bc
Sundays	Victoria Folk Music Society 7:30pm, Norway House, 1110 Hillside www.pacificcoast.net/~vfms or 413-3213, 24 hrs
Sundays	ICA Immigrant Youth Group (12-18) 1-3 pm, 930 Balmoral St (@ Quadra) Info: 388-4728 # 112, youth@icavictoria.org
Sundays	Join Victoria's Food Not Bombs and prepare, cook, and/or clean-up on Sundays (see pg 7) 383-5144 extension 1940
4th Sundays	Council of Canadians Coffee Nights 6:30-8:30 pm, Black Stilt Café, 103-1633 Hillside Ave. Info: 220-5355
Monthly	Faith in Action -a multi-faith coalition working to put more heart into BC's income assistance. www.bcfathinaction.ca
Monthly	Vancouver Island Vegetarian Association (VIVA) Potlucks www.islandveg.com
All month	CRD Parks outings and explorations for all ages. 478-3344 www.crd.bc.ca/parks/brochure2.htm
Ongoing	Auditions for Spilt Milk Improv Comedy Troupe 479-3374, spiltmilk@centralmail.com , www.spiltmilkcomedy.com
to April 1	Belfry Theatre annual festival of new Canadian work , various venues, \$18-22, 250-385-6815
Feb 23 & 24th	Ethical Purchasing Forum -- to discuss ethical trade in Vic. www.ethicalpurchasing.bcics.org/?page_id=6 , director@vipirg.ca
Mon Feb 26th	Crisis of Homelessness - Nanaimo - Panel Discussion, 7 pm, St. Andrew's, 4236 Departure Bay Rd. 250-758-3354 jbhedges@telus.net
Tues, Apr 17th	Youbou Timberless Society Class Action suit goes to the BC Supreme Court. Info: www.savebcjobs.com or (250) 746-8684
Tues Feb 27th	A COMMUNITY FORUM about Hep C - S.O.L.I.D. & P.A.C.E. - 5-7 pm, 1947 Cook St. Health Unit Info: momma@vcn.bc.ca
Weds Feb 28th	S.O.L.I.D AGM - 7-9 pm, 1947 Cook St. (Health Unit) Corner of Cook and Pembroke) Info: momma@vcn.bc.ca
Weds Feb 28th	Eye-Witness Report from Lebanon and Gaza - Cdn Indy journalist Jon Elmer, 7 to 9 pm, UVic Elliott Bldg. Rm.167 Info: 382.3375
Weds Feb 28th	Federal Dept of Peace - meeting - 7:30, 45 Cambridge St. right side, rear meeting room.
Thur Mar 1st	An Inconvenient Truth - Central Saanich Energy Committee, Bayside School, 7 pm
Fri Mar 2nd	HAT Gala Dinner w/ Dr. Nancy J. Turner & award for Bruce Whittington. 6 pm, 5109 Cordova Bay Rd. \$65, 995-2428 hatmail@hat.bc.ca
Sat Mar 3rd	Community Rally - Protect Goldstream Watershed, Support Commuter Rail , 4pm, Trans-Canada Highway @ Savory Road
Sun Mar 4th	The Global Climate Crisis: Seeking Solutions that Work w/ Guy Dauncey, 9-5, \$95 Register-1-866-890-0220, www.royalroads.ca
Tues Mar 6th	"Religion and War" discussion w/Victoria Secular Humanists & Manitoba MLA Len Evans. Swan's, 506 Pandora, 10:30 am.
Weds Mar 7th	WasteWATER: It's Too Good To Waste! Public Forum , 7-9 pm, Emmanuel Baptist Church, 2121 Cedar Hill X Rd. Info: 360-1398
Thurs Mar 8th	Global Warming, Tankers and the BC Coast - UVic Harry Hickman 110, 7 pm, Info: 370-9903
Mar 9-11th	Int'l Women's Day Rally & March - planning meetings Mondays at 2 pm , UVSS Women's Centre, UVic.
Mar 9-16th	Compost Educator Volunteer Training Program - 1216 North Park St. Apply by Feb 28th - 386-WORM or info@compost.bc.ca
Mar 16-18th	CFUV Community/Uni Radio Annual Fundrive - please support indy, non-corporate music & information! cfuv.uvic.ca , 101.9 fm
Weds Mar 21st	Cowichan Lake Outdoor Education and Conference Centre Info: 250-538-0112 or www.landtrustalliance.bc.ca
Sun Apr 1st	Emily Carr: Artist, Author Singer Sister , 1st Met Church, Quadra @ Balmoral, \$15, 250-388-5188
Apr 28 - May 12th	10th Annual Corporate Golden Piggie Awards - 2pm, Roxy Theatre, donation. Dress code: creative Info: bcfmwu9@islandnet.com
Thurs May 3rd	1st annual Global Solidarity School in Havana Cuba Info: www.solidarityschool.ca
Sat June 10th	33rd Annual Conference Cdn Association of Music Therapy - Open Door Choir evening performance in the Conference Centre Protest Israeli Occupation Info: US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation - 202-332-0994, www.endtheoccupation.org

Clothes & Goods Redistribution

Hi my name is Rob Mason, and I am offering what I hope will be a service too good to be refused. This service is motivated by a desire to contribute and provides a Win-Win-Win situation.

If you find yourself with drawers and closets full of clothing, blankets, towels (in reasonably good repair), that you no longer wear/use, I would be happy to drop by and pick up these items thereby freeing up your living space. (Win 1)

There is no charge for the service, simply call me @ 744-2865 to arrange a pickup time and that's all there is to it. (Win 2). I am gathering these items to donate to "OUR PLACE" where they will be once again be freely distributed to those in need. (Win 3).

Oh I stand corrected, through being able to act as the conduit by which your generosity finds its way to worthy recipients, I guess I win too!

Food Resources

9-10 CLUB (ST. ANDREW'S SOUP KITCHEN)

740 View St. Victoria, B.C. V8W 1J8 ph: 388-5571 8 - 10am seven days a week.
Church-run club providing daily meals on a drop-in basis.

ANAWIM COMPANION SOCIETY

973 Caledonia Street Victoria B.C. V8T 1E7 phone: 382-0283
Mon, Tues, Thurs 10am - 5 pm, Weds, Fri 10am-8pm, Sat 10am 4pm
Laundry, showers, meals, clothing, limited housing spaces.

GOLDSTREAM FOOD BANK

761 Station Rd (Legion Basement), Langford, B.C. phone: 474-4443
1st three Tues & Weds of each month, 10 am - 2:30 pm. Closed 2nd wk of Dec.
Serving the Western Communities from View Royal to Metchosin

FOOD NOT BOMBS - a collectively run food kitchen. Ph: 383-5144, ext 1940
Free vegetarian serving Sundays, 3 pm - Harris Green (Pandora & Vancouver)
Bring plastic containers for bowls, bags 4 produce. <http://resist.ca/~fnb-victoria>

FRUIT AND VEGGIE BOX

C/o Blanshard Community Centre phone: 388-7696
James Bay Community Project phone: 388-7844
WorkLink Employment Society phone: 478-9525
Victoria Native Friendship Centre phone: 384-3211

Wholesale prices, various size boxes. Pay first, pick up following wk.

JAMES BAY COMMUNITY SCHOOL

140 Oswego Street, Victoria, B.C. V8V 2B1 phone: 389-1470
-Seniors Dinners on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5 PM - \$5.75
-Community Dinners Weds, approx. every other mth, usually \$4 & \$2 -12 & under.
Tickets must be purchased at the centre in advance-Community school cafe open
Mon - Fri 11:45 am -12:30 pm. \$3.25 & child 2.75.

MEALS ON WHEELS

phone: 479-6900

For residents of Greater Victoria who, because of age, disability or illness, are unable to prepare an adequate meal for themselves, have inadequate cooking facilities, have no one to prepare meals, or have health and social needs. Referrals from doctors, health & Social Services agencies, concerned friends, family, or personal requests. Current cost of meals- \$6.75. In addition to nutritional benefits, some social interaction.

MUSTARD SEED STREET CHURCH

www.mustardseed.ca

625 Queens Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8T 1L9 phone: 953-1575
Outreach: Mon-Fri 8am-4pm, Food bank: M,T,W,Th 9-11:45am, 12:30-2:00 pm M,W,
F - Family Hampers, Th - Singles & Couples w/out children. Food bank is closed the
week following welfare cheque day. Drop in for food, friendship, counseling, and crisis
intervention. Food hampers available. One visit/mth.

OUR PLACE (formerly the Open Door)

713 Johnson St., Victoria, BC V8W 1M8 phone: 385-2454

7am - 3 pm Monday to Friday, closed weekends

Victoria's 'Living Room' - a drop in centre with free sandwiches, doughnuts, coffee, tea, bread,, clothing room, counseling, referrals, sometimes produce & pet clinic.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

828 View Street, Victoria B.C. V8W 1K2 phone: 382-0712

9 am-12:30 pm, 1:30 pm-4:30 pm Mon-Friday, Tues aft for Women

Must be 19 yrs, unless referred by parents, ASK, or Soc Services. Food, clothing, household items. Home visits, food vouchers for parents w/children.

SAINT SAVIOUR'S KITCHEN

310 Henry Street, Church Hall (VicWest) phone: 384-8773

Rainbow Kitchen for everyone, Weds, Thurs, Fris, 12 noon 1:30 pm

Shelter Weds-Sat nights, arrive 9-10 pm: mats, blankets, often food. Space for 25-35.

SALVATION ARMY, Family Services and Counselling (singles, too)

2695 Quadra, at Hillside ph: 386-8521 Monday Friday, 9 am 3:30 pm

Emergency food hampers, clothing & small housewares vouchers.

Extra shelter space only available in sub zero temperatures.

SIKH TEMPLE

Blackwood at Topaz (towards summit park), enter right side door

Every Sunday at noon - Free food serving, lentil dahl and chapatis, etc.

STREETLINK EMERGENCY SHELTER

1634 Store St., Victoria, B.C. V8W 1S2 ph: 384-3634, office 383-1951

Free dinner 7 days a week, 3 pm for meal ticket, serving at 3:30

ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

1611 Quadra St., Victoria, B.C., V8W 2L5 phone: 383 7169

Food bank open Tues & Fridays, 10 am-noon, in church basement. (Closed Fri and Tuesday after Welfare Wednesday, and Tuesdays after Monday stat.)

UPPER ROOM SOCIETY

919 Pandora Avenue, Victoria, B.C., V8V 3P4 phone: 388-7112

Office Hrs: Mon-Fri 9am-4pm Meals: Mon-Sat 12-1pm, 45:30 pm

Meal pass costs \$26 a month, or \$1 at the door.

Good Food Box Program - Duncan area - 250-746-4204, www.providence.bc.ca.

A couple of months ago we removed this Resource page (with food, housing, other services) from the newzpaper and printed it separately. Since we'd printed this page in every issue since we began, in 2004, and we've been receiving increasing amounts of quality writings for inclusion, we made the tough decision to remove it and reclaim the space. The plan is to print it every few months, and to make it always available separately - just ask one of the Street Newz vendors for a copy. Still, if you have any additions or changes, please let us know. With the governments privatizing (giving away) or contracting out our publically bought and paid for resources and social services, these are now your tax dollars at work! If you need them, they're there. If you can support them, with volunteer time or money, I'm certain they'd appreciate it.

Alert Status Red

In February, a famous designer racehorse is "put down"; the corporate media – as well as, we are informed, much of the world – laments the death of this great animal, euthanised after breaking its leg many months (and surgical interventions) before while running in the Preakness Stakes. Like all thoroughbreds, this horse was extremely vulnerable to leg injuries, all part of the breeding intended to make it run faster and stronger than its competitors. And, of course, to make someone rich and feel important, just two more gruesome, yet all-too-visible dimensions to the animal industry.

During the nine months of efforts to try to save this horse's life (efforts described in the corporate media as "Herculean"), while many humans poured out their hearts for this single, special horse, almost 7 billion other sentient creatures were being tortured on factory farms and in slaughter houses in the United States to be killed as food for humans and their pets. How to account for this extreme example of cognitive dissonance? As philosopher Mary Midgley has observed, humans have always been unwilling to admit their own ferocity and habit of slaughter.

Why do humans love their pets and other "special" animals so much while treating livestock, fur and laboratory animals so cruelly? It's simple. The love and the indifference we express are but two dimensions of a single attitude: We regard all sentient, non-human animals as property. Property is something to control, dominate, oppress and use (or misuse, as the case may be). As long as we regard animals as property, we will never treat them equally, let alone well.

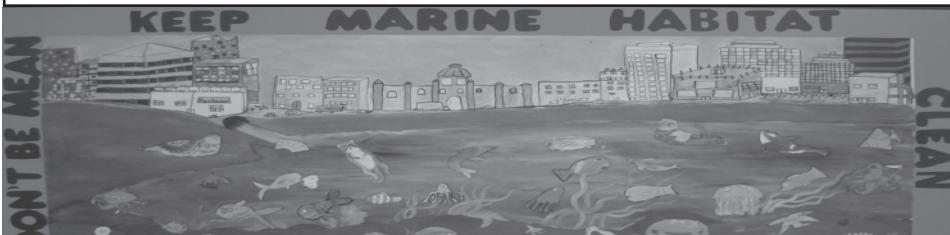
Yes, even the family pet (now egregiously referred to as a "companion animal") is nothing more than property, a veritable slave animal. When – indeed, whether – it is fed, watered, exercised, given affection or medical care, or killed depends solely on the choice and whims of its owner. It is a slave, existing only to please its master. Where once one might have mustered a somewhat reasonable argument in support of humans' having non-human animals in their settlements, those days are long gone. Dogs, cats and ever more exotic animals have become urban-based, designer pets, and they don't belong in cities at all.

By what horrible logic do humans take possession of the rest of the animal kingdom? The idea that animals are not just resources to be exploited, that they are individuals with lives that matter, is still too radical for most people to accept, argues UVIC philosophy professor Angus Taylor. All sentient beings, those capable of feeling things, have at least three fundamental interests: the interest in not suffering, the interest in continuing to live, and the interest in not being used. Above all, they have the interest, indeed the right, to be let alone. Veganism best expresses this ideal of the non-exploitation of human and non-human animals. A vegan world would be the greatest peace movement of all time.

If you want to learn more about (human and non-human) animal rights, plan to attend the 3rd annual UVIC animal law conference early in 2008, organized by the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund. Its well-attended, recently-concluded second conference featured as speakers academics from UVIC and University of Montreal, the former legal counsel for PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) in the United States, and the legal counsel for Friends of Animals, headquartered in Pennsylvania.

Learn the issues, and you too will be able to pass the anthropocentric "mirror test", not only to be able to recognize yourself in a mirror (as many non-human species of animals can do) but to look yourself in the mirror....Then, the move to veganism will be one of the most radical, direct actions you can take to improve Earth.

Submitted by Brian Mason, a writer, philosopher and activist living in James Bay.



An Update from the Communities Solidarity Coalition

from Don Startin

Over the last two months the Communities Solidarity Coalition has been meeting regularly to monitor the South Island scene and see if any opportunities presented themselves for action. However, none cropped up and we carried on supporting the Victoria Committee to End All Homelessness in any way we could.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 26th, at 7 pm at the H.E.U. offices. Confirm before you come with Bob at 920-9091. ALL are welcome.

We are here to support any organisation that seeks to counter the depredations of the present provincial and federal governments. If your NGO needs help, contact us. If you have an issue that you think needs attention, come to our next meeting.

editor's note: the CSC has been around a long time. it was formed just prior to the election that put the BC fibberals in 'power' at the beginning of the 21st century. people were afraid of what might happen, (privatization of resources and services, cuts to social programs, environmental degradation, etc), and the plan was to maintain a voice opposed to any injustices that may result. several years later, the CSC continues to be whoever shows up for the meetings.

Parents of Apprehended Children

Submitted by Colleen Dunphy

Confusion, shame, anger and frustration ruled my life after my children were apprehended but four years have passed since then. I spent the first three and a half years trying to control intense feelings of humiliation and then I started working on the rest of my emotions.

The children were apprehended while I was having emergency surgery after a long bout of mis-diagnosed illness. I awoke from surgery only to find that my children were taken by MCFD (Ministry of Children and Families) and sent to live with some family members.

I couldn't understand why MCFD would send the children to live with 2 people who, I believed, had already physically abused the children. Trying to explain the truth to the social worker was a dead end road though. I had to learn to control my frustration early on so I could clearly articulate my concerns, even in the face of ignorance, without losing my temper.

I was pretty weak when I got out of the hospital and emotionally I was a wreck. I thought my life was over. I was so sick and depressed for the next couple of months that I barely ever got out of bed. MCFD had made so many false allegations about me and, having been stripped of my dignity, I gave up trying to explain myself.

After talking with MCFD, even my parents were convinced the allegations were true and suddenly, all my friends disappeared. I had no support until I met my fiance Alvin. For four years he has given me the strength to advocate for myself and my children.

I had a lot of time on my hands since all 5 children were apprehended and Alvin and I spent all of it in law libraries and courtrooms. We read up on everything: family violence, family law, family dynamics, child development, psychology, therapeutic communications, parent alienation syndrome, mental health issues, and statistics.

We spent months at a time reading over court transcripts and court orders and then we quizzed each other on what we learned. We spent hours on end sitting in Family court nearly every week for three years and we listened to the patterns of the cases. Things were starting to go pretty good for us until 6 months ago when everything went downhill.

I hadn't seen the children in at least 2 months even though I had court ordered access. We went to court to try and enforce the court order but the children had already left the province with their grandmother. So, in July, 2006, Alvin and I left Duncan, BC and started driving towards Ottawa.

At every city we stopped in we talked with staff and clients from: child protection agencies, native reserves, Metis Family Services, police stations, universities, libraries, media outlets, MLA offices, homeless shelters, and foodbanks.

We spent eight weeks in Toronto. We got up early every morning with a time efficient plan, including wisely mapped out directions, and met with as many people as possible. When we had spoken to all the people on our list, we headed back to Victoria.

According to reports written by BC's Child and Youth Officer for 2006, 9080 children were apprehended in BC in just one year. The reports also reveal just how much children in care are suffering and it's too much.

I learned an important lesson along the way: first of all, I know I don't have to feel humiliated or shamed again because I've gone the extra mile for my children. I've done everything possible to keep them safe and healthy.

After all the reading, studying, listening and talking, I concluded that parents need to come together and talk about solutions to protecting our children. Looking at what went wrong for individual families can allow insight as to what changes could be made to prevent high numbers of apprehensions in future generations.

PAC meetings are every Friday at the Blanshard Community Center on Kings Rd. For information contact: Colleen Dunphy at 384-6554 ext 126 or colleenmasur@hotmail.com

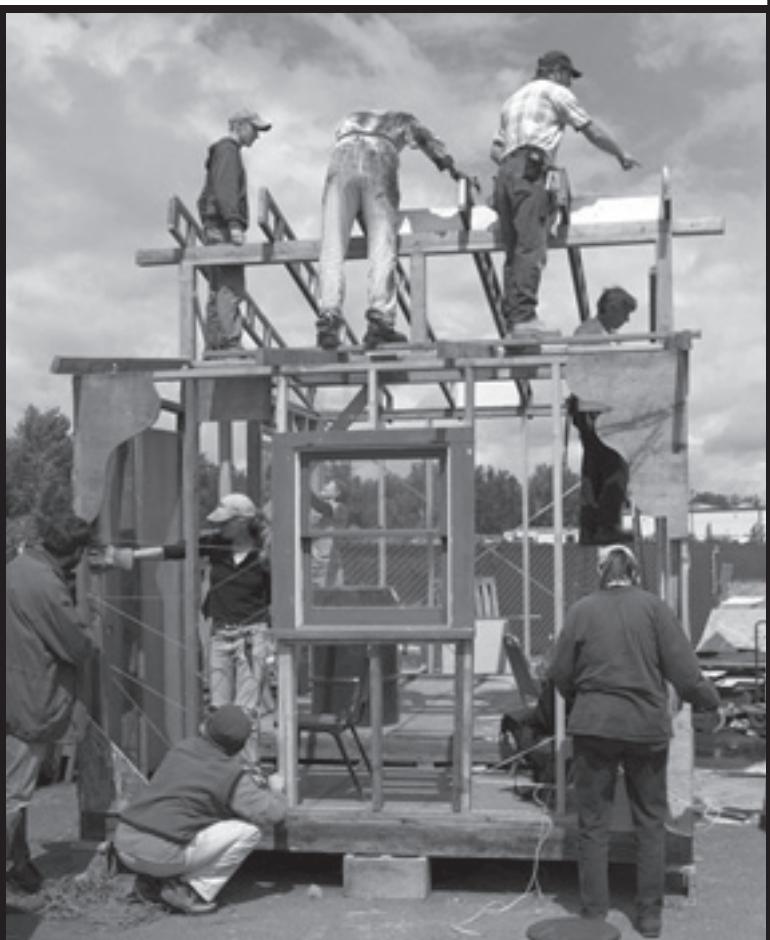
Victoria Committee to End All Homelessness

The Victoria Committee to End All Homelessness presently meets every Wednesday evening. We have concentrated on riding herd on the City's Cold Weather Protocol and keeping the issue of homelessness front and centre at council meetings. We have built up a modest balance in petty cash for our week to week expenses, but are well aware we haven't really put a roof over anybody's head.

One of our main concerns is that although many of our members have experienced homelessness, only one of us is actually homeless now. In order to encourage more actual homeless people to attend, we will have meetings at midday called "power lunches." Anyone wishing to support power lunches with funding or food, please call 384-5702.

We would like to reiterate that our committee wholeheartedly endorses the "Independence Settlement Project" and would like to congratulate Focus Editor Leslie Campbell for a well run forum, and Diana Carr and her team for putting the issue of homelessness fairly and squarely on the map. We were very gratified as individuals to take part in the forum. We urge all Street Newz readers to pick up their free [sic] copy of February's Focus and read up on the Independence Settlement Project. Join them, join us to work for an end to homelessness.

A sub-committee is working to establish a tent



village in Victoria. We need two things to get off the ground: permission from a land owner, public or private, to set up a tent village, and a bylaw change to make sure our camp isn't removed by the city. In the works is a non-profit provincially & federally registered society to run the tent village.

We are presently inviting a greater participation from those currently experiencing homelessness in Victoria. Please join us for coffee, tea, and honest dialogue to end all homelessness. Till further notice we will be meeting every Wednesday at 7 pm at Dreamscape - 751 Discovery St. Contact is rose@homelessnessnation.org, 953-1005.



editor's note: In February I attended a very innovative, dynamic slideshow presentation by Architect Mark Lakeman from Portland's City Repair project. Mark showed many beautiful and creative examples of alternative structures, made from recycled or earthen materials, and he spoke enthusiastically about the very successful drug and alcohol free 'Dignity Village' which is housing approximately 65 otherwise homeless people. Portland is inviting people to witness their progressive reclamation of public spaces between May 18-27th at their Village Building Convergence UnFestival. There's more information, and photos, at vbc.cityrepair.org.

Photos, above: Miles Hochstein. Reprinted with gratitude from www.portlandground.com/archives/2004/05/volunteers_buil_1.php and www.portlandground.com/archives/2004/05/dignity_village.php

One good local example of what is possible locally when we are allowed to dream is O.U.R. Ecovillage at Shawnigan Lake - photo, above. www.ourecovillage.org.



We Need A Unifying Mantra - The Guaranteed Livable Income

Submitted by Gerry Masuda

Governments operate increasingly on secrecy and spin to mislead the public. The corporate control of media supports the government in this deliberate strategy.

Take the government mantra TAX CUTS AND SMALLER GOVERNMENTS. The public tolerance for tax cuts to the rich individuals has almost been exhausted and the evidence of the impacts of smaller governments is becoming more and more obvious. Tax cuts to corporations will continue and as a result governments will continue to get smaller. However, the public is still having trouble connecting tax cuts to cutbacks in government services and programs. The public appreciates the need to cutback to balance the budget. The public, however, is less likely to look at the income side of the budget and the need to increase not decrease income through taxation.

In BC, the current thrust to close schools and the Campbell government's decision to make municipalities responsible for 50% of all new capital projects is the direct result of cuts in

government income due to cuts in income taxes. And the cuts will continue until the public rebels.

Tax cuts and smaller governments has been one of the governments' ideological mantras. The poor and those interested in social and economic justice need a unifying mantra - The Guaranteed Livable Income. Can readers think of other unifying mantras?

We are starting to complete our income tax forms. Think about this. Canada can afford The Guaranteed Livable Income. The billions of dollars of tax cuts already given to the very rich could have paid for The Guaranteed Livable Income for those who desperately need more money to live.

This is a question of social and economic justice which should concern all Canadians.

Gerry Masuda is a former federal civil servant who moved to Duncan around six years ago. Since his arrival he has taken an interest in local and provincial affairs, and periodically writes letters to the editor when he sees something which upsets him. Gerry can be contacted at gmasuda@telus.net

Words from Wilkie -- Trey Arrow

"I am innocent of the charges the U.S. government is trying to pin on me. Just As many activists have experienced, I am being targeted by the U.S. government and the FBI, not because I am guilty, but because I have chosen to challenge the status quo."

-Political Prisoner Tre Arrow-

Hello to everyone out there, it's Trey here and I'm doing well!

Music continues to feed my soul. The power of music and the connection to the mental, emotional and spiritual realms continues to astound me! I've been blessed with many beautiful people coming to visit and more to come (my sister Shawna and Doogles are visiting in a week and a half!!!) The winter seems to be giving way here in Victoria to the coming spring. I love spring! I love to see all the leaves coming back on the hardwoods and the buds and the flowers that promise the sacred fruit for summer and fall!

Right now I'm reading "Awakening Spirits," by Tom Brown Jr. Tom shares his profound experiences with earth mother and the connections with stalking wolf, grandfather. Every time I read his books it brings me closer and closer to earth mother and my ancestral roots. I highly recommend everyone to read any and all of his books (please acquire used or from a library). The trees will thank you.

Many things are going on here in Victoria regarding my bail and community support. I'm happy to announce that the benefit on Thursday Feb. 1 [at the Solstice Cafe] was a tremendous success, once again!!! We raised over \$300, we had many outstanding musicians perform, had a fun raffle and everyone seemed to have a glorious time! I was able to call in and speak to the whole crowd via speakerphone which was extremely rewarding for all of us. Thank you to all who helped organize and make this event as special as it was!

Legal Update

I know it seems to be continually pushed back, but my bail hearing appears to be taking place in March. I am continuing to secure more sureties. It is abundantly clear based on past bail hearings, the opinion of my lawyer Jim and the agenda of the Crown (the prosecuting attorney), that it is imperative that we secure at least one surety who is a resident of BC (preferably Vancouver or Victoria). Therefore, I'm asking everyone to keep this in your prayers and positive manifesting energy that we may secure the necessary ingredients to realize my release. Please and thank you, spread this far and wide and talk to anyone who may be a potential candidate to be part of this surety package.

My appeal hearing date is still set for Wednesday, April 18. During this hearing we will be appealing both the initial committal order for extradition from Judge Gill and the Justice Minister's decision to surrender me. Jim has worked diligently on the arguments and we have solid grounds for appeal. One of the major arguments involves the sufficiency of evidence on which the Canadian government relies in order to assume I was involved with the arsons and therefore turn me over to the U.S. government.

I thank you all for your continued love, energy, prayers and support! It helps keep me strong and is truly a source of continual inspiration! I send each and every one of you the love and strength of all the sacred conifers throughout the world!!!

Namaste Trey
Tre Arrow Defense Committee

BEGGING

To the Court; Your Worship, I'm writing today in support of Trey Arrow's filing for bail.

I'm a Victoria-based independent journalist, radio producer and host of a weekly public affairs program, broad/webcast from the University of Victoria. Over the last nine years I've covered stories dedicated to peace, justice, and the environment, and interviewed hundreds of the world's foremost scientists, journalists, jurists, activists, & authors.

One of those individuals was Trey Arrow. As a journalist, a local story hooks, but beyond this the details of his case struck an eerily familiar chord for me to another case I've had occasion to visit on my radio program.

Leonard Peltier was, you may recall, extradited from Canada to the USA based on information supplied to the Canadian government by America's Federal Bureau of Investigation, and other federal agencies, that later proved blatantly incorrect. Peltier, whose role as an organizer with the American Indian Movement (AIM) is widely believed to be the real reason for his incarceration, was upon his return to the United States subjected to a trial rife with irregularities, found guilty of complicity in the murder of two F.B.I. agents, chucked in the can, the key thrown away.

That was almost thirty years ago, and since thousands have spoken out against this miscarriage of justice, and millions of words written chronicling the errors for all to see. Leonard Peltier was delivered into the hands of American Justice by Canadian Justice, and languishes still with little hope of ever seeing the sun rise as a free man again; this because the Canadians charged then with administering justice failed to first serve the law, instead allowing political expediency to decide Leonard Peltier's fate.

Trey is not charged with murder, but because of the political nature of his case, vis a vis the desire in the U. S. to see him extradited, he languishes untried three long years after his arrest; housed with thieves, rapists, and murderers; cloistered behind bars and mortar; denied freedom, that so precious commodity whose protection allows carnage, as seen in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Trey needs his freedom to prepare his defense. A "terrorist," he has no habeas corpus rights in America, nor any guarantee of having anything we in the west prior these last five years would say resembled a fair trial, and looking at a life sentence based on plea-bargained "evidence," denying him his necessary freedom to prepare and mount a defence

JUSTICE

for his concurrent legal challenges cannot serve equitably.

Trey must be free to be among his friends and many supporters, one of which I am proud to say I am. He needs time to recover his strength and spirit to ensure he can continue to contribute, in law-abiding fashion, to the betterment of our society. And this he has done already, organizing a growing group of ecology and peace activists, essentially contributing to the betterment of Canada from within his cell at Wilkinson Road.

Trey is obviously no threat to the public; he is a pacifist; he is not a flight risk to his home country, for obvious reasons, and is committed to making a good life for himself here in Canada, just as so many political refugees and war resisters from America have in the past. He wants to work to enrich Canadian society. I understand too there is a campaign to provide sureties to further convince the court that Trey's friends and supporters are as committed to him as he is to the ecology and well-being of this country.

Though perhaps not the fashion in some parts, Canada is still a nation of laws, and justice-loving people. Canadian Justice is not perfect, its mistakes made famous in cases like Leonard Peltier's, and a veritable chain gang of erroneously convicted "felons," the truth of whose cases were only discovered after decades of imprisonment, but it must not repeat the errors of the past.

Trey's case is a second chance for Canada to get it right. But, Trey's fight will not end with rightful bail release; his is a much larger fight, a fight being fought by the likes of Maher Arar, and all the uncounted others swept into the crucible of injustice by the political preoccupations of the day.

I first learned of Trey in the media; later interviewed him; and, now support his case. I'm convinced his cause is all of ours, and I believe Trey and the good people around him are working towards not only a better world for humanity and all life, but are growing an awareness of ways that may prove our collective last hope of survival.

I believe that work can better be done outside the walls and bars of Wilkinson Road, and so beg your worship consider his release appeal favourably.

Sincerely,

Chris Cook
PacificFreePress.com/CFUV Radio

Homeless Heather's Cycle Tour

Submitted by: Heather Turnquist

I am currently riding my mountain bike through the Americas to study poverty and homelessness in other countries, especially the "less fortunate" ones. America sure has been interesting! It's now illegal to serve food in public in many cities, so organisations such as Food Not Bombs are being targeted. In Santa Barbara, the ticket for sitting on the sidewalk is more expensive than the one for not wearing your seatbelt!



The dumpster diving is pretty sweet from a broke travellers point of view, but pretty disgusting on all other fronts.

I have settled in a teepee in the small farming town of Ojai, California for now to get caught up on projects that have been piling up on me, and their homeless population is about 12 at this time of year. The town is growing however, and it's still quite illegal to be homeless or poor. There was an interesting event a few months ago where a six year old boy was caught hanging off of a cliff's edge and a homeless man climbed up and saved him before the police could even set up their ropes and harnesses. Front page news: Hero Without a Home. People were shocked! So I was inspired to write this letter to the editor, then realised I should send it to you guys too, the first street family I ever had.

Hero Without a Home

I am a 21 year old Canadian on a world bicycle tour to study the "homeless" phenomenon and the perceptions and actions surrounding it. I have repeatedly found only negativity, from prejudice and stereotypes to the more frightening criminalization and systematic abuse.

I found myself home-free at the capable age of 19 with a solid background of academic excellence and community service. Growing up in a rural area much like Ojai [California], I have a deep affinity for nature and took to sleeping outside naturally while I searched for a job and affordable accommodations. While I benefitted greatly from the natural medicines of sunshine, stars and fresh air, I was shocked to be woken up at 3 am by lights and officers! Away were stripped my veils of youthful ideals and ignorance, and into my life entered a shining purpose, a cause worth fighting for.

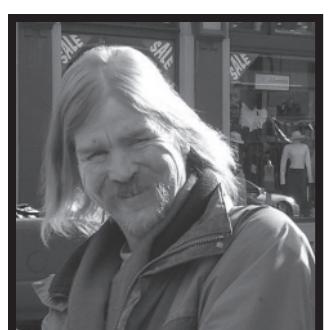
The people I have met since I was just a rookie kid on the streets until now have been, without a doubt, the most honest, humourous, generous and tolerant people I have ever had the pleasure to associate with. I am still shocked at the levels of desensitization and dehumanization occurring in such rich, abundant natural areas. Respect and care for the community of life are pillars of my existence.

Are you so afraid of your neighbours as to turn a blind eye to injustice?

You can write to Heather at heather_001@hotmail.com.

Red Again !!

Those who know my writings also know what I write is my own opinions with no influence.



This is a new year and I hope you are off to a good start. I really don't have an itinerary right now. I'm gonna wing it. Because I live the way I do, I am now a stranger to most of the people I encounter. Yet there are still a lot of them I will meet.

I am able to tell you a little bit about myself. I have not been homeless or a vagabond or a panhandler all the time. I do come from a different background that doesn't need to be repeated.

I'm just trying to get by. I try to treat people as they go through their own course of life, and I respect their ways but I have my own ways. I do not condemn this. I like to think we are all on the same page. At times I get frustrated and confused about my reasons for being here. Yet, I understand that we are all here for one reason or another. I really have no answer but I may find it one day. So if I meet you some day, please feel free to say hello, good day.

Have a good one!

Yours, Red.

Street Muzings

The Guaranteed Livable Income

Adequate income for everyone is our foremost goal,
As Common People everywhere aspire to take control.
Too long the rich have plundered our earthly wealth and treasure,
To fuel the profit system, the greed, the wars, whatever.

The old work ethic is passé.
We see a more enlightened day;
Toil and wages countermanding;
The good Buzz Hargrove notwithstanding.

Be not ignorant or obtuse.
Create for need, not for abuse.
For all time may we put an ending,
To the call for spending, spending.

Commercials everywhere appear,
Assaulting senses, eye and ear.
Stop this all pervasive torrent,
Commercialism is abhorrent.

Few years are left to turn the tide.
Everyone must get on side.
Scientific investigation
Gives but fifty years duration.

Sure, we all must say goodbye,
When our moment comes to die.
What lies beyond may be unclear.
But we still hold this planet dear.

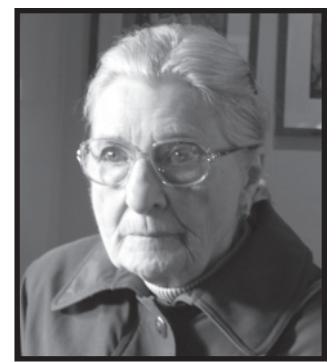
We like to think that when we're gone,
The World and Kin will carry on.
There's no time left to contemplate,
We may already be too late.

We must stop plundering today,
The GLI will show the way.
Communities will be rewarded,
When local goods can be afforded.

Time to participate and share,
Time for joy and love, and care.
We will let the forests grow
And the rivers find their flow.

No more degradation scams;
Stop the buzz saws! Damn the dams!
Then woods and water will be rife
With birds and fish and wild-life.

By good environmental creed
We'll harvest only what we need.
What joy then to rediscover
Our Blue Planet, Earthly Mother!



Florence Richard

I Will Never Give Up

When my tears have fallen,
And I have had enough,
I will never give up!

No one, No one,
can stop my heart,
From loving,
From living,
From growing.

Sorrow seems cruel and so unjust,
But I am determined to survive,
I believe, I must.

No one, No one,
will ever take away,
My joy, my dignity,
My self-trust.

No one, including myself,
Will let me sink.
With hope and strength,
I will lift up.

I promise myself,
I swear an oath,
That I will love myself.

Whatever life brings,
I will never give up.

Bala Crouan-Best



The Battle of Washington

4/4 ||:D G A D D G A D D D D A D D D A/D D D D D :||

In 1814 we took a little trip,
Along with Tecumseh down the mighty Mississip
We took a left turn through sunny Tennessee
And proceeded to the burning of Washington D.C.
We fired our guns and the yankees started running,
They ran along the beaches, they ran through the trees
They ran down south to hide with Col. Jackson
Behind LaFitte's pirates in the Caribbean Sea...
Te - cum - seh - eh! Te - cum - seh - eh!

The brit gunboat captains, came ashore that night
To have dinner by the light of the Whitehouse burning bright
We wondered how long 'fore they'd start another war
Brant reckoned it 'ud be, two hundred years or more
We fired our guns....

We recalled in 1813, a year ago today
Yankee gunboats burned Toronto away
Folks on both sides of the border say
We think it should be declared a holiday
We fired our guns...

Tecumseh and Sir Isaac Brock were generals who led
Canadian heroes and both came out dead
We taught the yanks a lesson, of guns and gold and bread
It's considerable cheaper, to buy us out instead...
We fired our guns...

Te - cum - seh - eh! Te - cum - seh - eh!

Te - cum - seh - eh! Te - cum - seh - eh?

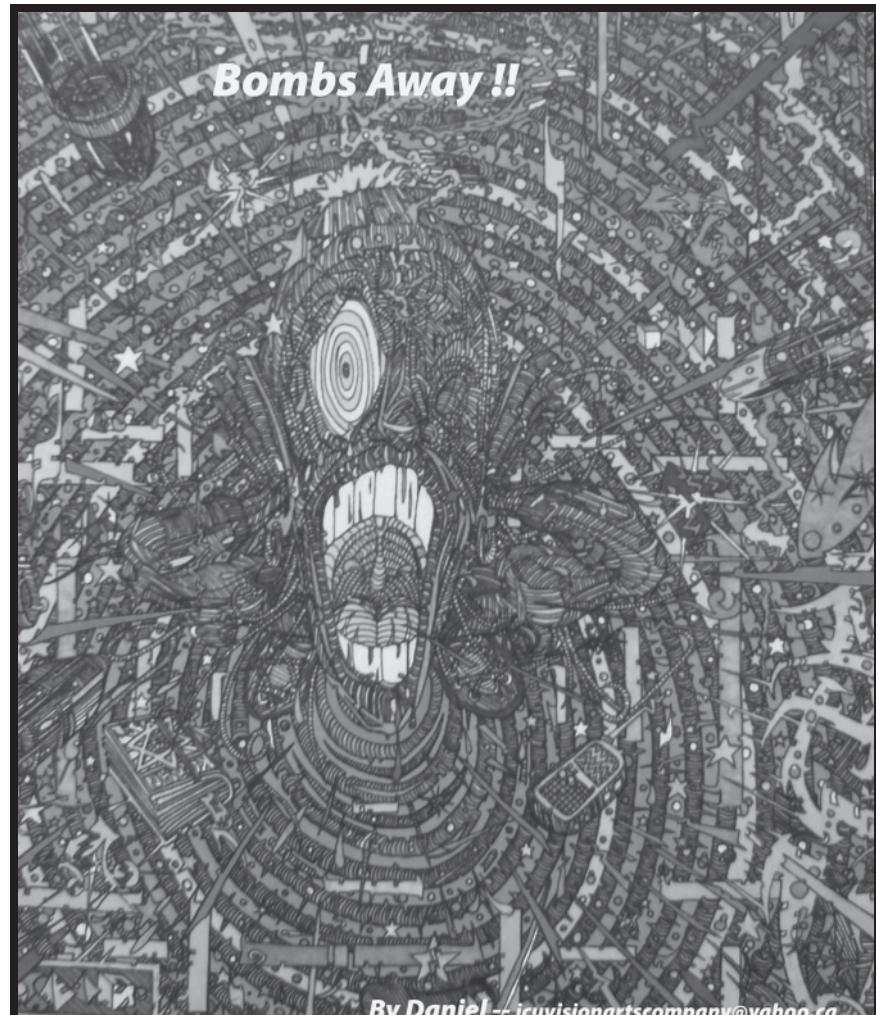
(An old folk song Johnny Horton may have
rewritten using this Canadian song.)

Collected by Jim Erkiletian, January, 2007.

A Prayer of a Palestinian Christian

Pray not for Arab or Jew
For Palestinian or Israeli
But pray rather for ourselves
That we may not divide them
In our prayers
But keep them both together in our
hearts.

This prayer is used by groups
working for peace in the Middle East
around the world, and is offered by
Marilyn Hadden.



By Daniel -- icuvisionartscompany@yahoo.ca

Beacon Community Services

Thrift Shop

2723 Quadra St (@Hillside), Phone 479-8849
Open 9 to 5 Mon-Saturdays, 10 to 4 Sundays

Offering gently used clothing, jewellery, housewares, and much more at the lowest prices in the Victoria area!!!!

Enjoy volunteering?
Call Trish at 479-8849
www.beaconcs.ca



1005 Broad St,
between Broughton and Fort
(250) 477-0146
info@goodplanet.com

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no postage required.

democracy watch has links to
mlas mps and senator:
www.democracywatch.ca/camp/mps.htm

Central America Support Committee

CASC
Join us first Wednesday of every month:
7:30 PM upstairs at 1923 Fernwood Road
Email: casc@telus.net
Phone: 598-7690
Web: <http://casc.communitypipe.org/>



Victoria's Activist Coffeehouse

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available by the cup or pound



The Public Service Alliance of Canada is a proud sponsor of the
Victoria Street Newz

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"Make Poverty History".

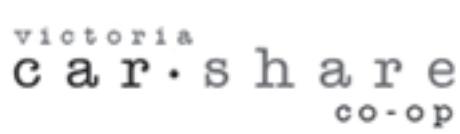
The PSAC is one of Canada's largest unions, with 160,000 members.



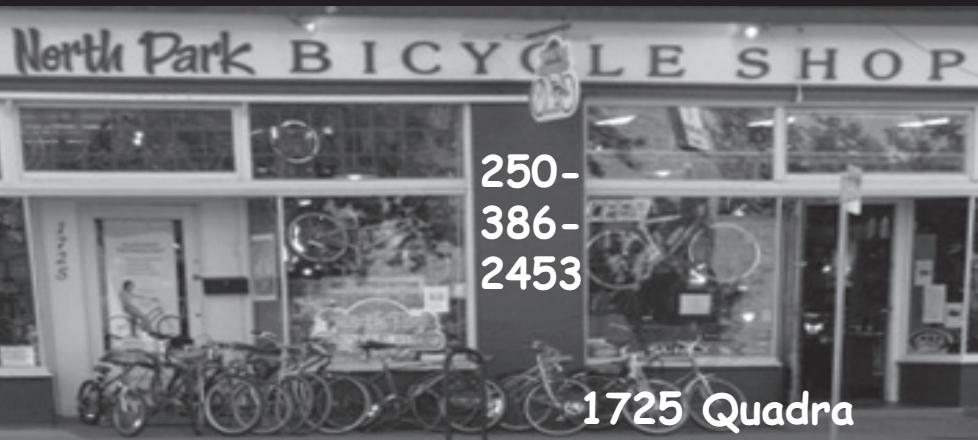
Public Service Alliance of Canada • Alliance de la Fonction publique du Canada

<http://www.psac-afpc.org>

"It ain't what you
don't know
that gets
you into
trouble.
It's what
you know
for sure
that just
ain't so."
Mark Twain



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"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."

Rev.
Martin
Luther
King Jr.

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Rob Fleming, MLA
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Victoria Street Newz Distribution Team



John



Ken



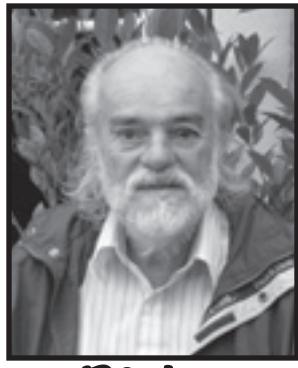
John



Marlene



Berni
no
photo
yet



Rick



Ted & Bok



Rose



Debbie

If you'd like to check us out, join us, or share a conversation and a cup of tea or coffee, you can find some or all of us at the Solstice Café some Fridays, 10 - noon. If you're interested in being a vendor, talk to John at his Coast Capital office on Douglas.

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Counting the Beans

Operating Revenue Coordinator's Revenue

	Dec	Jan	Feb
Paper Sales (from vendors)	500.00	550.00	500.00
Donations	295.00	260.00	281.00
Subscriptions	105.00	70.00	0.00
Salary from B & R	650.00	650.00	650.00
Pennies from Panhandlers	37.65	0.00	10.00
Total Coordinator's Revenue	1587.65	1530.00	1441.00
<i>B&R Revenue (deposited)</i>			
Donations	340.00	180.00	870.00
Subscriptions	105.00	152.00	105.00
Grant Monies	0.00	0.00	0.00
<i>Total B&R Rev. (deposited)</i>	445.00	332.00	975.00
<i>Total Operating Revenue</i>	1587.65	1530.00	1441.00

Operating Expenses

Coordinator's Expenses

Paper & Printing Costs*	624.90	748.16	573.04
Office expenses	16.00	22.00	27.00
Misc. (postage, fees, etc.)	92.89	68.54	20.17
Community reciprocity	85.00	160.00	75.00
Total Coordinator's Expenses	818.79	998.70	695.21

B & R Expenses

Bus Tickets (2 for 1)	35.00	35.00	35.00
fm City of Vic Grant	100.00	100.00	100.00
fm Vancity Grant**	450.00	100.00	0.00
fm KAIROS Grant	50.00	50.00	50.00
fm PSAC Grant	50.00	50.00	50.00
fm B & R collected revenue	0.00	350.00	450.00
sub ttl B&R Expenses	685.00	685.00	685.00
Total Operating Expenses	1503.79	1683.70	1380.21

Ttl Coord Rev minus Expenses 83.86 -153.70 60.79
(- is out of pocket, + is salary)

* Costs reduced due to PST exemption - Thanks, civil servants!

** Waiting, hoping for another year of funding (\$5000?) from Vancity - meantime, thank goodness for savings account and generous supporters!

Thanks to these Generous Supporters!!



Vancity



thanks for the work you are doing
it's people like you
that make it worthwhile (or able)
for me to go on
anonymous

Street Newz Subscriptions

While Street Newz vendors appreciate your direct purchases, subscriptions and donations help offset production costs. A subscription (\$35 or more/yr or \$20 low-income) is a wonderful gift for you, or a friend!

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Thanks for your support!!

A Great Big Thank You !!

New or renewed subscribers: Carol Quartermain, James Robins, Patricia Fitzgerald

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And anyone else I may have missed -
Thanks!! We couldn't do it without you!!